

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's action on elected Claims 1-13, Claims 14-23 have been non-elected and herewith cancelled, while reserving the right to file a divisional application thereon in due course.

Applicant further notes the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Langen, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,997,689, as detailed in the Office Action, also noting that this publication was cited in response to the previous Office Action.

Furthermore, applicant notes the rejection of Claims 12 and 13 as being either anticipated by or deemed unpatentable over Langen, et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or respectively 35 U.S.C. §103.

Accordingly, upon careful consideration and in order to clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the art, applicant has cancelled Claims 5, 6 and 7 without prejudice and incorporated the limitations thereof into Claim 1.

Furthermore, applicant has cancelled Clam 11 without prejudice and amended Claim 12 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 13 therein, which has also been cancelled herein.

Concerning the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that Langen, et al., which was extensively discussed by the applicant in response to the previous Office Action, fails to provide for a central member which is bundled with a plurality of cables and adhesively fastened thereto so as to provide for ready access to the cable from the exterior without having to penetrate or open an encompassing sheath or casing.

This particular type of structure, although utilizing cables which, per se, are generally known in the technology, enables a workman or installer of the equipment to readily splice and separate cables from the central member consisting of the flexible strip to which it is only temporarily adhesively connected by means of a suitable hot melt adhesive material applied to the sides of the central strip like member.

Langen, et al. does not permit that type of structure, whereas in order to gain access to the interior of a multi-stranded cable, the latter of which is also enclosed within its own sheathing, requires that an external casing or sheathing be opened and entered by a workman in order to be able to peel cables from the internal sheathing member, which is a convolute structure.

Furthermore, even when considering the embodiment of Figures 2 and 3., there is no provision of a single central member having the cables bundled thereabout in a manner analogous to the present invention.

To the contrary, in Figure 1 of Langen, et al., the cables are contained between two flat members, which must be peeled back in order to gain access to one or more of the cables, which are arranged in a side-by-side and parallel extending relationship.

Similarly, in Figure 2 of Langen, et al., the cables are glued or adhered to each other, rather than to a single central member, and it must be peeled away from each other by separating in a banana peel-like fashion, as is currently known in the technology.

Furthermore, with regard to Figure 3 of the drawings, the cables are glued in a flat parallel manner to a single flat board, as also indicated in Figure 4 of the drawings and must be peeled away therefrom by having to remove either a member forming a connecting strip, and then separating individually adhesively attached cables.

With regard to the remaining embodiments in Langen, et al., these all show external sheaths or casings encompassing the cables, which must be opened in order to gain access to the interior thereof.

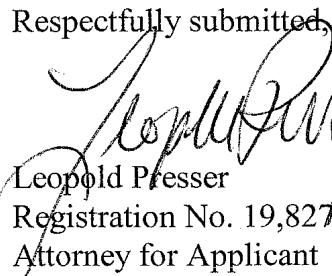
To the contrary, pursuant to the present invention, provided is a relatively simple structure requiring only manipulation of individual cables, which are intended to be selectively unwound from a central strip to which the respective cable (or cables) is (or are) adhesively attached without having to remove the remaining cables, which then are still maintained in adhesive engagement with the central strip member.

The foregoing structure, representing an extremely simple and advantageous configuration, which is also inexpensive, enables ready access to and manipulation of the bundled cables, which is not at all permissible or feasible in the structure shown in Langen, et al., nor in any other reference of record, or known to the applicant.

In view of the foregoing, inasmuch as the applicant has amended the claims to emphasize this particular structural feature and inventive aspect, and also cancelled the non-elected method claims without prejudice or disclaimer, as required by the Examiner, the early and favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,


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